7/14/75

Mr. Roger Feinman
CBS News- Radio
524 W 57 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Roger,

In different ways the intent of my Friday's letter to Schorr and my today's call to you had the same purpose, to put CBS, on different levels, in a position to protect itself if it wants not to be used by those with ulterior purposes that I think I see.

Friday and today were long and not easy days for me. My Friday's work was on what took me to New York three weeks ago but for a different principal. Friday I had to do it all by remote control when I knew the principal was sorely tempted. I could not do by phone what I could do in person.

Today I returned to writing and before I called you had written at least 10,000 words, beginning quite early.

With all these other things requiring concentration I may not have been clear to Schorr and I felt I had to be somewhat elliptical.

With you I am pretty sure I forgot what has been on my mind since about 7:02 a.m. Friday. I believe that Bud planted Prouty on Schorr.

I believe also that in the recent past he fed another story to Schorr. To a reporter that earlier one of which I'm pretty confident would have been a natural because if it turned out to be wrong nothing of which the reporter could think would or could be hurt. I see hurt otherwise.

In this I am neither saying nor suggesting that Bud serves a Department of Disinformation. I know him well enough to know what is his norm and both stories were.

I can, however, see this as the result with both. Separate from intentions.

There were very obvious flaws in Prouty's story. I sensed some of them and then reasoned others. But I did not have time to think it through because of the other (Friday) matters to which I had to attend.

Whether or not it is actionable the clear inference of the Prouty concoction is that as a CIA man Butterfield pulled the plug on Nixon. Those who cast Butterfield in a role I do not would go for this from earlier belief and the correlation with the House leak. And please notice that from the news available to me I have heard nobody conjecture who besides Butterfield might have filled such a role. If there was such a person and if he was not Butterfield he is both forgotten and protected.

When the media must make somebodies out of nobodies this kind of development is at some point a sure thing. If we are all prone to mistakes with the best of intentions following non-experts are experts we ask for trouble.

Remember what I told you as soon as I heard the story 60 Minutes was going for? All one knowing the material had to know was the subject. I wonder how much money CBS wasted on that sure loser. Or, conversely, how much good copy and film it could have had with much less. The wretch hired as a consultant reflects the knowledge of the field of those who pissed away all that stockholders' money.

As a consequence of this flap you may hear non-secrets that could interest me. I have watched Department of Disinformation operations with interest and a little care. If you come accross anything you can let me know I'd like to know.

Best,